

Bloomington Arts Commission

Wednesday, June 12th, 2019

5 to 5:30 pm - McCloskey Conference Room (Abbreviated meeting due to grants reception)

Attendees: Joanna, Bryony, Nick, Rachel, Andy, Sally, Elizabeth, Lynn

## A G E N D A

### 1. Call to Order/Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 5:01 PM.

### 2. Approval of May minutes

- Sam moves to approve. All in favor.

### 3. Welcome Public

- a. Invitation for public comment
- No members of the public present.

### 4. Financial Report - *No change/No update*

- Andy: No change other than invoice from One World Catering which was \$155.

### 5. BAC Projects

- a. Grants Committee
  - i. - *No update* - Arts Night at City Hall - 5:30 PM

Andy: No updates

- b. Public Art Planning Committee
  - i. Trades District Recommendation/Vote
  - ii. Switchyard update

Nick: We had a meeting last Friday and reviewed the finalists. Considered all of the 300+ public comments in the deliberation. Professor Glazer joined the committee and provided feedback. The committee decided on Steffan Reiss piece. Notes on the process are documented in the email. The committee liked the use of color, felt it would be dynamic at night with the lighting, etc. We liked that it connected to the Tech theme of the Mill and Trades District. We felt this would be unique to Bloomington's collection. Compared to other pieces on the B-Line it had a different form or shape and would lean itself toward interactivity and public engagement. The artist is from Berlin. Most of his other pieces have been temporary installations but we

believe this is his first permanent install. The process for this was relatively simple with us coming to the decision relatively quickly.

We will have the ability to control the pace of the lights so we can change the speed depending on the atmosphere of the event taking place.

Rachel: We also wanted to think about longevity and how the piece would look in 10 years from now. Again, the choreography of the lights provides a lot of opportunity for engaging with public performances.

Andy: The artist came across as extremely professional and as an artist who appears to be on the way up. I think by commissioning his work, it can set the tone for helping Bloomington be recognized as a cultural center, not just locally but in the international sphere.

Lynn: I am pleased with the selection but wonder if the feedback taken in from residents would have ended up selecting this piece.

Nick: We did not code all the comments, but we agreed that it was between the piece by Steffan and the Orix piece.

Bryony: There was more concern about this piece becoming iconic.

Nick: There were a few people whose preference evolved as the conversation went forward.

Sam: The elephant piece was the crowd favorite and is limestone inspired. I believe the Stefan piece would fit more of the feel in the Trades District.

Sean: Agreed. We also wanted to think about which piece could fit the Trades. We felt the Orix piece could have been placed anywhere in the city and so we thought about having the piece represent the specific feel of the Trades District.

Joanna: Which were local?

Nick: Stefan – Berlin, one was from Seattle and the other 3 had local ties.

Sean: We will probably structure this as a partial grant to cover Stefan's fee. He mentioned his fabricators. 20% of the budget goes to him for his budget and we hold the other 80% and direct contract with the fabricators through the city. We would be the overseer of the project. The majority of the money will actually be spent in Indiana. We want to track how many local artists applied. The majority of the finalists were local.

Nick: We initially had the ambition of announcing this tonight. When we announce we want to make sure we have all the legal issues tied and I think we can think about how to respond to a good story.

Joanna: When you do announce, are there opportunities to engage Stefan in community building? I think that's critical. Including the community in some other aspect through Stefan training might be an opportunity.

Andy: He expressed interest in doing a workshop or being an artist in residence at the Mill.

Rachel: Motions to approve decision moving forward with the selection. Lynn seconds. All in favor.

c. Switchyard:

Nick: We met to make a selection and instead selected 2 finalists. We will give a more thorough run through at the next meeting.

Sally: There may be another opportunity for more art in one of the parks.

6. Commissioner Announcements

a. Andy is moving to Indianapolis in July. Will resign from BAC at July meeting.

Andy: The chairperson position is open. Bryony has agreed to take on the role with the consent of the other commissioners.

Sean: We will now have 2 appointees. If you know people to join the board then feel free to let me know.

Rachel: Midway is announcing our lineup for the festival, June 28. It will be at Upland from 6-9. We also have a Patronicity campaign through the end of the month. If anyone wants to donate then feel free to go to our Facebook page.

Nick: The Fourth street block party on Friday was great. It seemed like a success all around.

7. Public comment

8. Call to Adjourn

- Adjourned at 5:25 PM.